

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-33.
- After this Amendment: Claims 1-11, 13-15, 17-30, 32, and 33

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: 12, 16, and 31

Amended claims: 1-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13, 15, 17-22, 30, 32, and 33

New claims: None

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by a public instant

message (IM) service, the method comprising:

the public IM service receiving via a client application, a request from a
user to connect to a the public instant message (IM) IM service;

the public IM service determining that the request is from a user is
associated with a particular domain; and

based on a determination that the user is associated with the particular
domain, the public IM service redirecting the request to an IM gateway server
that is associated with the particular domain.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the determining comprises:

the public IM service identifying a user ID associated with the request;

the public IM service determining a domain associated with the user ID;

and

the public IM service determining that requests for connections to the public IM service from users associated with the domain associated with the user ID are to be redirected.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the redirecting comprises:

determining a redirection address associated with the domain, the redirection address being associated with the IM gateway server; and

transmitting a transfer command to athe client application from which the request was received, the transfer command indicating the redirection address to which the request is to be submitted.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the redirection address comprises at least one of an IP address andor a domain name.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4 wherein the redirection address further comprises a port number.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

the public IM service receiving via the client application, another request from the user, to connect to the public IM service, the request being from the user and including an identifier that indicates that the request is being submitted from an IM gateway server that is associated with the domain; and

establishing through the IM gateway server, a connection between the public IM service and the user client application.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising:

the public IM service receiving instant message communications from the user through the IM gateway server; and

the public IM service transmitting instant message communications directed to the user to the IM gateway server.

8. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to implement the method as recited in claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by a public instant message (IM) service, the method comprising:

the public IM service receiving a user request to connect to a~~the~~public instant message (IM) IM service;

the public IM service determining a domain associated with the user request;

the public IM service accessing domain-specific policy data associated with the domain;

in an event that the domain-specific policy data indicates that connection requests associated with the domain are not allowed, the public IM service denying the request to connect to the public IM service based on the domain-specific policy data

determining that the request is being received from a client application through an IM gateway server;

authenticating the IM gateway server;

authenticating the client application; and

~~establishing a connection between the public IM service and the client application through the IM gateway server.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 9 further comprising:

~~receiving an IM communication directed to the client application; and transmitting the IM communication to the IM gateway server~~
in an event that the domain specific policy data indicates that connection requests associated with the domain are to be redirected, the public IM service redirecting the request to connect to the public IM service based on the domain-specific policy data.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at a gateway server, a public instant message (IM) service connection request from a user;

the gateway server verifying that the user is authorized to access the gateway server;

the gateway server verifying that the user is authorized to participate in public IM communications;

the gateway server modifying the public IM service connection request to include data that identifies the gateway server; and

the gateway server forwarding the public IM service connection request to a public IM service.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~claim 12-claim 11~~ wherein the verifying comprises examining data stored in an enterprise policy and configuration data store.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising:

determining whether the user is authorized to participate in point-to-point communications as may be enabled through the public IM service; and
in an event that the user is not authorized to participate in point-to-point communications, altering the connection request to include data that indicates that the user is not authorized to participate in point-to-point communications through the public IM service.

15. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a public instant message service configured to enable public instant message communications between two or more users, wherein the public instant message service comprises:; and

~~an enterprise specific data log configured to store data associated with public instant message communications directed to or from a user associated with a particular enterprise.~~

an instant message connect domain store configured to store domain names that identify domains for which instant message service connection requests are to be redirected; and

a dispatch server configured to:

receive a connection request from a user through an instant message client application;

determine whether the connection request is being received from an instant message gateway server;

in an event that the connection request is not being received from an instant message gateway server, determine whether the connection request is from a user associated with a domain identified in the instant message connect domain store; and

in an event that the connection request is from a user associated with a domain identified in the instant message connect domain store, issuing a transfer command to the instant message client application, the transfer command including a redirection address.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 16-claim 15 wherein the instant message connect domain store is configured to store at least one of a domain name, an instant message connect enabled indicator, a transfer IP address, a transfer domain name, a port number, a managed namespace authorization enabled indicator, and/or an instant messaging ID/Key pair.

18. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 16 claim 15

wherein the public instant message service further comprises:

a connection server configured to establish and maintain a connection between the instant message service system and the user through an instant message gateway server.

19. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 16 claim 15

wherein the public instant message service further comprises:

a switchboard server configured to route instant message communication data received from and directed to the user.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the public IM service further comprises an enterprise-specific data log configured to store data associated with public IM communications directed to or from a user associated with a particular enterprise is implemented as a component of the public instant message service.

21. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising an enterprise network that is separate from the public instant message service, wherein the enterprise network comprises an enterprise-specific data log configured to store data associated with public IM communications directed to or from a user associated with a particular enterprise wherein the enterprise-specific data log is implemented as a component of an enterprise network that is separate from the public instant message service.

22. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the enterprise-specific data log is implemented as at least one of a database, one or more XML files, and/or one or more text files.

23. (Original) The system as recited in claim 15 further comprising: an enterprise instant message gateway server configured to manage public instant message conversations in which an enterprise user participates.

24. (Original) The system as recited in claim 23 wherein the public instant message service is further configured to verify that the gateway server is a valid gateway server associated with an enterprise with which the user is associated.

25. (Original) The system as recited in claim 23 wherein the enterprise instant message gateway server is further configured to:

request a connection to the public instant message service on behalf of the enterprise user; and

route instant message conversation data between the public instant message service and the enterprise user.

26. (Original) The system as recited in claim 23 wherein the enterprise instant message gateway server is further configured to generate a log of the instant message conversation data.

27. (Original) The system as recited in claim 23 further comprising:

a second enterprise instant message gateway server, geographically distributed from the other enterprise instant message gateway server, the second enterprise instant message gateway server also configured to manage public instant message conversations in which an enterprise user participates; and

an enterprise routing service configured to route a connection request from the user to the enterprise instant message gateway server or to the second enterprise instant message gateway server.

28. (Original) The system as recited in claim 27 wherein the enterprise routing service is further configured to determine whether to route the connection request from the user to the enterprise instant message gateway server or to the second enterprise instant message gateway server based on data that identifies a geographical location associated with the user.

29. (Original) The system as recited in claim 23 further comprising a policy and configuration data store configured to maintain data that identifies enterprise policies to be applied when the enterprise user requests a connection to the public instant message service.

30. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-readable instructions which, when executed, cause a public instant message service computer system to:

receive a connection-request directed to establish a connection with the public instant message service;

determine whether the connection-request is being received through an instant message gateway server; and

in an event that the connection-request is being received through an instant message gateway server:

authenticate an identity of the instant message gateway server;

authenticate an identity of a client application through which a user submitted the connection request; and

establish a connection with between the public instant message service and the user client application through the instant message gateway server; and

in an event that the request is not being received through an instant message gateway server:

determine whether the user is associated with a domain for which connection requests are to be redirected; and

in an event that the user is associated with a domain for which connection requests are to be redirected, redirect the connection request to an instant message gateway server associated with the domain.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 31, further comprising computer-readable instructions which, when executed, cause the public instant message service computer system to:

in an event that the request is not being received through an instant message gateway server:

in an event that the user is not associated with a domain for which connection requests are to be redirected, determine whether the user is associated with a domain for which connection requests are to be denied; and

in an event that the user is associated with a domain for which connection requests are to be denied, deny the connection request.

33. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 32, further comprising computer-readable instructions which, when executed, cause the public instant message service computer system to:

in an event that the request is not being received through an instant message gateway server:

in an event that the user is not associated with a domain for which connection requests are to be denied:

authenticate an identity of the client application through which the user submitted the connection request; and

establish a connection between the user client application and the public instant message service.